An early Canaanite/Northwest Semitic dialect ancestral to Hebrew (often called Proto-Hebrew or early Hebrew in broader terms), written—if written at all in alphabetic form—in the still-formative Proto-Sinaitic/Proto-Canaanite script, centuries before a distinctively Hebrew alphabet emerged.

Hebrew belongs to the Canaanite subgroup of Northwest Semitic languages, closely related to Phoenician, Moabite, and other dialects. Distinctive features that set Classical/Biblical Hebrew apart as a discrete language largely crystallize toward the end of the Late Bronze Age and into the early Iron Age (roughly after 1200 BC, with clearer national differentiation in the 10th–9th centuries BC). Archaic Biblical Hebrew poetry (e.g., portions of Exodus 15, Deuteronomy 32, Judges 5) preserves older traits, but fully standardized Hebrew as known from the main biblical corpus is later. At ~1450 BC the speech of the Hebrews would have been an early West Semitic/Canaanite dialect continuous with the language reflected in earlier sources such as the Amarna letters' Canaanite elements—not yet the differentiated "Hebrew" of the monarchic period.

On the writing system: The world's earliest alphabetic (strictly, abjad/consonantal) scripts—Proto-Sinaitic (mainly from Serabit el-Khadim in Sinai) and related Proto-Canaanite forms—appear in the first half of the second millennium BC (roughly 1900/1850–1500 BC and continuing later). These were developed by Semitic speakers adapting Egyptian hieroglyphic signs on the acrophonic principle. By ~1450 BC this early alphabetic system was available in the Egyptian-Sinai-Canaan cultural sphere and could have been used for a Northwest Semitic

cultural sphere and could have been used for a Northwest Semitic language. It is the direct ancestor of later Phoenician and Paleo-Hebrew scripts, but it was not yet a national “Hebrew” alphabet with stabilized letter forms unique to Israel/Judah.

Paleo-Hebrew (the Old Hebrew script used in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah) is a later national variant that branches from the broader Phoenician/Proto-Canaanite tradition, becoming clearly distinguishable in the Iron Age (especially from the 10th/9th centuries BC onward). The square “Assyrian” or Aramaic-derived script used in modern Torah scrolls is still later (post-exilic, Persian period and after). Mainstream paleography therefore places a distinctively Hebrew writing system well after 1450 BC.

In short, under the early-date presupposition the Law would have been received and (if written by Moses) recorded in an early form of the language that later becomes Hebrew, using the nascent shared Proto-alphabetic script of the region rather than any mature, ethnically distinct Hebrew alphabet. Minority reconstructions that identify Proto-Sinaitic inscriptions specifically as “Hebrew” and link them directly to Moses exist but remain highly contested and outside scholarly consensus. Traditional Jewish sources sometimes debate whether the original script was Paleo-Hebrew or the later square script, but these are theological rather than historical-linguistic claims calibrated to 15th-century BC epigraphy.